

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 DODE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 DPW-01 IO-13 AID-20

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DRAFTED BY EA/VN:PCOLLINS:JCM

7/18/7B EXT. 23221

APPROVED BY P: AMB. PORTER

OSD/ISA:DR.RSHIELDS (DRAFT)

EA:AWHUMMEL,JR.

EA/VN:LBASKEW

EA:WCUTLER (DRAFT)

S S -MR. GAMMON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

CH USDEL FPJMT SAIGON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 141927

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VN, VS

SUBJ: DRV MEMORANDUM CONCERNING SAIGON/HANOI LIAISON
FLIGHTS

REF: PARIS 18453

1. WE PROPOSE FOLLOWING MEMORANDUM BE DELIVERED TO DRV
EMBASSY IN PARIS SATURDAY MORNING JULY 21 IN RESPONSE
TO DRV MESSAGE TRANSMITTED REFTEL. ANY COMMENTS OR
SUGGESTED CHANGES SHOULD BE TRANSMITTED IN TIME FOR
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CONSIDERATION PRIOR TO THAT TIME.

2. TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE WITH REFERENCE TO THE JULY 5 MEMORANDUM OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM, THE UNITED STATES WISHES TO POINT OUT THAT, CONCERNING ARTICLE 8B OF THE AGREEMENT AND ARTICLE 10 OF THE APPROPRIATE PROTOCOL, THE DRV HAS NOT "CREATED THE FAVORABLE CONDITIONS" AS IT CLAIMS. THE DRV IS WELL AWARE OF THIS. IN FACT, WHAT THE DRV HAS DONE HAS BEEN TO OBSTRUCT AND DELAY PRACTICAL STEPS OF AN URGENT, HUMANITARIAN NATURE (SUCH AS THE REPATRIATION OF REMAINS) THAT COULD BE CARRIED OUT IMMEDIATELY AND WHICH WOULD ALSO HELP LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR FURTHER PROGRESS. THE DRV HAS JUSTIFIED ITS POSITION ON THE GROUNDS THAT SUCH

PRACTICAL STEPS MUST AWAIT TOTAL AGREEMENT ON ALL POINTS BY ALL PARTIES TO THE FPJMT ON A STATEMENT OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 8(B). THE U.S. WISHES TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT AS TO THIS OBSTRUCTIONIST POLICY AND ATTITUDE OF THE DRV. FOR ITS PART, THE U.S. WILL CONTINUE TO IMPLEMENT THESE PORTIONS OF THE AGREEMENT AND COMMUNIQUE (AND ALL OTHERS) CORRECTLY WITH REGARD TO BOTH LETTER AND SPIRIT, AND TRUSTS THAT THE DRV WILL FINALLY BEGIN TO DO LIKEWISE.

ON THE SPECIFIC ISSUE OF THE SAIGON-HANOI LIAISON FLIGHTS, THE POSITION OF THE DRV IS NOT CONSISTENT WITH THE FACTS. IT IS QUITE CLEAR, AND WAS SO ADMITTED BY ALL CONCERNED AT THE TIME, THAT THE FIRE ON THE JUNE 8 FLIGHT RESULTED FROM AN INCENDIARY DEVICE CONCEALED IN THE BAGGAGE OF A MEMBER OF THE DRV DELEGATION. THEREFORE, THE DRV CLAIM IN ITS JULY 5 MEMORANDUM THAT THE CAUSE OF THE FIRE HAS NOT YET BEEN IDENTIFIED IS, TO SAY THE LEAST, A CURIOUS INTERPRETATION OF THE EVENTS OF JUNE 8.

FOLLOWING THE INCIDENT, THE U.S. NATURALLY WISHED TO TAKE MEASURES TO PREVENT A REPETITION OF SUCH DANGEROUS AND DISRUPTIVE OCCURENCES. IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT SUCH MEASURES ARE IN THE INTEREST OF ALL PARTIES TO THE FPJMT, AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 8(B). THE SAFETY
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PROCEDURES THUS ESTABLISHED BY THE U.S. ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE ON INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS, AND IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT OTHER DELEGATIONS MANIFESTED FOR THE LIAISON FLIGHTS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE FOLLOWING JUNE 8 COMPLIED WITH THESE PROCEDURES WITHOUT QUESTION.

THE UNITED STATES WISHES TO FURTHER POINT OUT THAT ON FOUR SEPARATE OCCASIONS SINCE JUNE 8 -- JUNE 22, JUNE 29,

JULY 6 AND JULY 13 -- THE UNITED STATES HAS SCHEDULED LIAISON FLIGHTS TO HANOI AND PROVIDED AIRCRAFT FOR THIS PURPOSE. IN EACH INSTANCE, HOWEVER, THE DRV DELEGATION REFUSED TO SIGN A SIMPLE CERTIFICATE ATTESTING THAT ITS BAGGAGE AND CARGO WERE FREE OF DANGEROUS MATERIAL, AND THEN WOULD NOT BOARD THE FLIGHT.

THEREFORE, THE DRV REFUSAL TO COOPERATE WITH REASONABLE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS HAS PREVENTED FOUR SCHEDULED LIAISON FLIGHTS FROM TAKING PLACE. TO SAY, UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, THAT THE U.S. HAS "UNILATERALLY" CANCELLED THEM IS A DISTORTION OF THE FACTS.

ONCE THERE HAS BEEN AGREEMENT ON ESTABLISHING AND IMPLEMENTING SENSIBLE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS AND PROCEDURES, THE FLIGHTS CAN RESUME. IT IS THE UNITED STATES DESIRE, AS IT HAS BEEN ALL ALONG, THAT THEY DO SO PROMPTLY. THE UNITED STATES WILL DO ALL IT CAN WITHIN THE FPJMT TO ACHIEVE SUCH AGREEMENT. IF THE DRV TAKES THE SAME COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE THEN LIAISON FLIGHTS CAN BEGIN AGAIN AT AN EARLY DATE. END QUOTE RUSH

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